

Syphilis

Administering Department: Virology

Test Contact: Kari Getz 334-2235 ext 229

Purpose of Test: Screen for syphilis or monitor treatment for a syphilis infection.

Method:

USR (Unheated Serum Reagin): screening for syphilis by detection of antilipoidal antibodies in serum

Quantitative USR: determination of levels of reactivity

TPPA (*Treponema pallidum* particle agglutination assay): confirmation of a syphilis infection in serum after screening test results indicate syphilis.

VDRL: used for testing cerebrospinal fluid

Sample and Submission Guidelines:

0.5 ml serum separated from blood clot to prevent hemolysis

0.5 ml CSF

Properly labeled specimens must be accompanied by STD or Virus & Misc. Serological Tests form, complete with date of collection and submitter address.

Possible Results and Meaning:

USR nonreactive/TPPA reactive: Probable past treated syphilis, but may be untreated latent syphilis, or false positive TPPA test. This pattern can also be seen in early primary syphilis. Recommend retesting in 2-3 weeks if there is possible recent exposure to syphilis.

USR reactive/TPPA nonreactive: probable false positive USR reaction. This pattern can also be seen in early Primary syphilis. Recommend retesting 2-3 weeks if there is possible recent exposure to syphilis.

USR reactive/TPPA reactive: Consistent with syphilis infection

Turn-Around-Time: screening 1-2 days, 2-4 days with confirmation